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June 28, 2004
Immediate Release

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Environment Department to Tackle Environmental Justice Issues Wednesday in Deming

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will hold a listening session **in Deming on Wednesday June 30 from 3 to 8 pm at the Mimbres Valley Special Events Center, 2300 E. Pine.** This session is part of a statewide plan to study and address the issue of environmental justice. By tackling this issue, NMED hopes to ensure that no population in New Mexico is exposed to a disproportionate amount of the negative human health and environmental impacts of pollution or other environmental hazards.

“It goes without saying that all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, income, or education level, should be treated fairly,” said NMED Deputy Secretary Derrith Watchman-Moore. “This is true when you are applying for a job or buying a house as well as with the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. By investigating and addressing this problem, NMED hopes to ensure that no community is forced to shoulder a disproportionate burden of pollution or environmental harm.”

In addition to the Deming meeting, NMED will hold three other listening sessions in the coming months to help collect information from the public on possible cases of environmental justice. These meetings give New Mexicans an opportunity to provide input and comment on environmental justice in their communities.

Future sessions will be held in Las Vegas at Highlands University on July 21, Acoma at the Sky City Hotel on July 27 and in Albuquerque on August 17-19.

Representatives from NMED, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other local or Tribal governments will be in attendance to personally hear concerns. Any person or organization that wishes to provide oral comments will be given five minutes to present their environmental justice concerns. Written statements can also be submitted during the session or by mail. Please send all comments to: EJ Listening Session Workgroup, 801 University Boulevard SE, Suite 302, Albuquerque, NM, 87106. These recommendations will be used to formulate community-based policies and planning initiatives.

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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